



12:30pm, 17 February 2019 - Day 13

A team from the Ministry for Primary Industries has again been stationed at the cordon to Redwood Valley, where residents have had extended restricted access to their properties from 8am until 2pm.

Residents in Eves, Teapot and Pigeon Valleys, who have also had restricted access, can call us on 0800 008 333 (option 4) if you have identified animal welfare concerns during your visit to your property.

During restricted access hours, please ensure you provide your animals with enough food and water for at least 2-3 days in the event you cannot to get back to your animals.

Civil Defence says it is likely that access may not be possible on Monday due to forecast high winds and lower humidity.

If you have to re-evacuate

If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you – if you can do so safely – or take them to a safe shelter place.

Pets can be taken to the Richmond Showgrounds if you are unable to find alternative accommodation for them. You can leave your pets with the team there – who will care for them until you're able to either return home or make other arrangements for them.

Please do not leave pets in cars for extended periods. If you go to the Civil Defence Centre at Richmond New Life Church, you can take your pets with you as long as cats are in a cage and dogs are on leads. If you go to a Marae, please ensure your pets have already been taken to either the showgrounds or to friends, family, whānau, or boarding facilities. Local Marae aren't equipped to cater for an influx of animals and wish to ensure they are well looked after.

If you have to leave your animals behind, make sure they're in a safe place, well away from any fire risk, such as a recently ploughed paddock.

Safer areas should be away from dense vegetation, scrub, bush or forest - anything that will fuel a fire. Safer areas should be fenced, have water supply, short pasture, and protection from radiant heat.

Ensure that any livestock left on your property have sufficient food and water for 2-3 days and that they have freedom to move to water.

Community drop-in session

Our team will be at the community meeting and drop-in session at the Hope Community Church, from 1.30pm this afternoon to talk through any concerns you may have about your animals' welfare.

We appreciate this starts during the period residents have restricted access to their properties in Eves, Teapot, Redwood and Pigeon Valleys. However, we will be there till 3.30pm.

If you can't make it to the session and have concerns about your animal's welfare, you can call us on 0800 008 333 (option 4).

Updates

We will be providing future updates on the animal welfare situation on an 'as-needed' basis.

We're continuing to monitor the situation on the ground in Nelson, and work with Civil Defence to address animal welfare issues associated with the fires.